

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-15 remain in the application. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

In the following text, specific references to the present application and the prior art are made using the notation "x:y", where "x" denotes the page or column number, and "y" indicates the line number, within the document being discussed.

Claim 1 has been amended to further clarify the nature of the termination circuit, as recited in that claim. Claim 1, as amended, makes clear that the termination circuit is utilized to limit unwanted signal reflections in the electrical signal wire to which the termination circuit is attached. This amendment is supported by the discussion of the termination circuit in the specification of the present application. More specifically, the specification indicates that termination circuits are used, for example, to reduce deleterious effects of transmission line stubs (1:18 – 1:20) such as unwanted signal reflections (5:15 – 5:27).

The examiner has rejected claims 1-7 and 9-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,017,222 ("Kao"). Additionally, the examiner has rejected claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Kao.

As a result of the amendment to claim 1 enclosed herein, the applicant believes that claim 1, as amended, is allowable, as it distinguishes the present invention from Kao. More specifically, Kao discloses an electrical connector assembly that connects two flex circuits with a main circuit board 30 (1:61 – 1:64). FIG. 3 of Kao indicates that the two flex circuits each have a flat end portion 71 with electrical terminals 712 residing on the ends of the flex circuits (2:56 – 2:60). The flat end portions 71 make contact on either side of a connecting board 40 with the electrical terminals 712 of the flat end portions 71 making contact with a set of conductive members 42 on the connecting board 40 (3:7 – 3:11). The flat end portions 71 and the connecting board 40 are held together in part by two clips 711 (2:50 – 2:53). The connecting board 40 then attaches to the main circuit board 30 by way of a mating portion 43 that connects with a complementary mating section 31 on the main circuit board 30 (3:11 – 3:15).

The examiner has identified the mating portion 43 as being equivalent to the termination circuit recited in claim 1 of the present application. However, mating portion 43 is nothing more than a standard printed circuit board connector, as shown in FIGS. 3, 4, and 7


of Kao. That structure is not equivalent to the termination circuit 210 of the present invention, as shown in FIG. 4 of the application, and as recited in claim 1. As mentioned above, such termination circuits are commonly utilized to mitigate deleterious transmission line effects, such as signal reflections, in signal lines (1:18– 1:20). Kao makes no reference to nor infers any such circuits. As a result, the applicant believes that claim 1 is not anticipated nor made obvious by Kao. Therefore, the applicant believes that claim 1 is allowable.

Additionally, since dependent claims 2-15 all depend from independent claim 1, and the applicant believes that claim 1 is allowable, the applicant believes that claims 2-15 are also allowable, as each incorporates the termination circuit element not disclosed in Kao.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **“Version with markings to show changes made.”**

As a result of the previous discussion, it is believed that claims 1-15 comply with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. 102 and 103. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

by 

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the specification:

No amendments were made to the specification herein.

In the claims:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) An electrical connection structure for terminating an electrical signal wire and electrically coupling the electrical signal wire to a target circuit board, comprising:

an electrical circuit substrate to which the electrical signal wire is coupled, the electrical circuit substrate having a proximate end being coupled via solder to the target circuit board, the electrical circuit substrate being substantially perpendicular to the target circuit board; and

a termination circuit mounted substantially at the proximate end of the electrical circuit substrate, the termination circuit being electrically coupled to the electrical signal wire and the target circuit board, the termination circuit being configured to limit signal reflections on the electrical signal wire.